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GB10344 Labeling Prepackaged Alcoholic Beverages (G/TBT/N/CHN/72)

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Report Highlights:

China notified new changes to GB10344 "General Standard for the Labeling of Prepackaged Alcoholic Beverages" to the WTO on January 10, 2005 through G/TBT/N/CHN/72. The document applies to alcoholic beverages between 0.5 percent and 60 percent alcohol content by volume. China's WTO TBT Enquiry Point is accepting comments for 60 days following the notification. All interested U.S. parties exporting alcoholic beverages to China should provide comments to the USDA FAS Office of Food Safety and Technical Supervision. The following is an UNOFFICIAL translation of the draft provided free of charge for the benefit of U.S. exporters.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
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Disclaimer

Information in this translated report may not be completely accurate either because policies may change when the regulation is adopted, or because clear and consistent information about these policies was not available. Therefore U.S. exporters should try to verify all import requirements with their foreign customers, who are normally best informed, before any goods are shipped. Final import approval of any product is subject to the importing country's rules and regulations as interpreted by border officials at the time of product entry. In the event of any errors or omissions in this translation, the original Chinese version shall prevail.

This report is a free translation provided by the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service Agricultural Affairs Office in Beijing, China for those interested in exporting American food and agricultural products. Please send any comments and questions to the USDA FAS Office of Food Safety and Technical Services Division (see the following website for contact information <http://www.fas.usda.gov/itp/ofsts/ofsts.html>).

Background

China notified GB10344 "General Standard for the Labeling of Prepackaged Alcoholic Beverages" to the WTO TBT Committee on January 10, 2005 (G/TBT/N/CHN/72). The notification allows 60 days for comments. All comments from interested U.S. parties should be sent to the USDA FAS Office of Food Safety and Technical Services Division.

This standard cites language in the most recent version of GB7718 the National Standard for Prepackaged Foods (TBT/33 and GAIN report CH4026). In addition, the document references language from GB2760 the National Hygienic Standard for the Application of Food Additives (CH1046) and its supplements (listed in the China FAIRS Country Report CH5008).

BEGIN TRANSLATION**Foreword**

Clause 5.3 of this Standard is recommended; other clauses are mandatory.

This standard is one of a series of national standards for the labeling of foods, which are completed with GB 7718-2004 General Standard for the Labeling of Prepackaged Foods. Its basic requirements and general clauses are the same as that of the GB 7718-2004, which adopts the CODEX STAN 1- 1985 (Rev. 1991, 1999) General Standard for the Labeling of Prepackaged Foods of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) in a nonequivalent manner.

This Standard supercedes GB 10344 - 1989.

Compared with GB 10344 - 1989, the major changes of the Standard are as follows:

- to have been renamed the General Standard for the Labeling of Prepackaged Alcoholic Beverage;
- to have changed the alcohol content of alcoholic beverage to 0.5 % by volume ~ 60.0% by volume from the original 0.5% ~ 65.0% (V/V);
- to have changed Chapter 4 "General Provision" of the original standard to the "Basic Requirements;" appropriately amended Clause 4.10 of GB 7718 - 2004; and added the content of "4.11 All indication contents shall not be attached to additionally, printed supplementary or interpolated;"
- to have canceled Chapter 6;
- to have determined the contents of mandatory indication, remission of indication and non-mandatory indication (see 5.1, 5.2, 5.3);
- to have added the contents of "in addition to that the detailed name of food sweetening agent, preservative or colorant shall be indicated, others can be indicated based on the classified names as stipulated in the GB 2760 (see Clause 5.1.2.2); "processing agents" do not need to be indicated in the "raw materials" or "raw and auxiliary materials" (see Clause 5.1.2.3);
- for glass bottled beers, "words of caution" are required (see Clause 5.1.10);
- for alcoholic drinks that are controlled by the license for the manufacturing of industrial products, it is required to label the sign and number of manufacturing license (see Clause 5.1.11);
- grape wines and other alcoholic beverages with alcoholic strength more than 10% by volume can be exempt from labeling the quality guarantee duration (see Clause 5.2);
- it is recommended to use "persuading words" for labeling of drinking (see Clause 5.3.2.2).

This Standard is presented by the China National Light Industry Associations

This Standard resides in the National Food & Fermentation Standardization Center. China National Academy of Food & Fermentation Industries, Tsingtao Brewery Co., Ltd., Beijing Yanjing Beer Group Corporation, China Great Wall Wine Co., Ltd. and Wuliangye Group Co., Ltd. are in charge of drafting this Standard.

Major drafters are Tian Qijing, Fan Wei, Feng Jingzhang, Tian Yali, Liu Peilong, Chen Bin, Li Xiaoqing, Dong Jianjun, Xiong Zhenghe, Liu Wen.

The original standard superceded by this Standard was first released in 1989 (GB10344 - 1989).

General Standard for the Labeling of Prepackaged Alcoholic Beverage

1. Scope

This Standard specifies the followings:

- terms and definitions of the labeling of prepackaged alcoholic beverage (see Chapter 3);
- the basic requirements for the labeling of prepackaged alcoholic beverage (see Chapter 4);
- the mandatory indication contents of the labeling of prepackaged alcoholic beverage (see Clause 5.1);
- exempting from mandatory indication contents of the labeling of prepackaged alcoholic beverage (see Clause 5.2);
- the non-mandatory indication contents of the labeling of prepackaged alcoholic beverage (see Clause 5.3).

This Standard is applicable to the labeling of all prepackaged alcoholic beverages to be supplied to customers.

2. Normative references

Through being cited in this Standard, the clauses contained in the following references will consist of ones of this standard. For all dated references, all their subsequent amendments, exclusive of corrected contents, or revised versions will be not applicable to the standard. However, any parties that come to an agreement in accordance with this standard shall be encouraged to make a study of the possibility of adopting the latest version of the following normative references. Where the references are not dated, their latest versions are applicable to this standard.

GB 2760 Hygienic Standard for the Application of Food Additives

GB 4927- 2001 Beer

GB 7718 - 2004 General Standard for the Labeling of Prepackaged Foods [neq CODEX STAN 1 - 1985 (Rev. 1 - 1991, 1999)]

GB/T 12493 Classification and Numbering of Food Additives.

GB/T 17204 - 1998 Classification of Alcoholic Beverages

3. Terms and definitions

The following terms and definitions designated in GB 7718 - 2004 are applicable to this Standard.

3.1 Alcoholic beverage

Alcoholic liquors with 0.5% by volume ~ 60.0% by volume of alcoholic strength (ethanol content), including all kinds of fermented alcoholic drinks, distilled spirits and blended alcoholic beverages*.

3.2 Fermented alcoholic drink (brewed alcoholic drink)

Alcoholic beverages with alcoholic strength not more than 24% by volume, prepared through fermenting and brewing with grains, fruits, milk and so on as raw material.

[Rewritten from Clause 3.1 Definitions of GB/T 17204 – 1998]

3.3 Distilled spirits**

Alcoholic beverages with 18% by volume ~ 60% by volume of alcoholic strength, prepared through fermenting, distilling, brewing and blending, with grains, sweet potatoes, fruits and so on as the major raw material.

[GB/T 17204 - 1998, Clause 3.2 Definition]

3.4 Blended alcoholic beverage (liqueur)

Alcoholic beverages, prepared through blending, mixing or reprocessing, by adding edible auxiliary materials or food additives, taking fermented alcoholic drink, distilled spirits or edible spirits as wine base, which have changed the special flavor of original wine base. [GB/T 17204 - 1998, Clause 3.3 Definition]

3.5 Alcoholic strength (ethanol content)

At 20°C, the content of ethanol in milliliter contained in 100ml of alcoholic beverage, or the content of ethanol in gram contained in 100g of alcoholic beverage.

Note 1: In consideration of the current international practice, the alcoholic strength can be expressed in volume fraction, in % vol. Before December 4, 2004, the alcoholic strength of beer can still be expressed in mass fraction, in % (m/m).

Note 2: It is pointed out in ISO 4805 - 1982 that % by volume and % by mass shall be used in priority.

4. Basic requirements

4.1 ~ 4.9 Same as 4.1 ~ 4.9 of the GB 7718 - 2004.

4.10 Each minimum package (selling unit) shall have the indication content as given in Clause 5.1. In case that there is another packing (box) being delivered directly to customers outside the internal package (bottle), the mandatory indication content may be only on the packing. For its external package or large size package, the relevant product standards shall be implemented.

4.11 All indication contents shall not be attached additionally, printed supplementary or interpolated.

5. Indication contents

5.1 Mandatory contents indication

5.1.1 Name of liquor

5.1.1.1 Special name reflecting true attribute of alcoholic beverage shall be indicated clearly on the striking position of label

5.1.1.1.1 One of several names already specified in the national or trade standard shall be selected.

5.1.1.1.2 In case of no name given in the national or trade standard, common or popular name that enables customers not to misunderstand or confuse shall be adopted.

5.1.1.2 "Newly created name", "peculiar name", "transliterating name", "brand name", "regional slang name", or "trademark name" can be indicated. However, one optional name as given in Clause 5.1.1.1 shall be shown in the position adjacent to the shown name of liquor.

5.1.2 List of ingredients

5.1.2.1 A list of ingredients shall be given in the label of prepackaged alcoholic beverage, except for the alcoholic beverage made from a single material.

5.1.2.1.1 A list of ingredients of alcoholic beverage shall take "raw material" or "raw and auxiliary materials" as title.

5.1.2.1.2 Various kinds of raw materials and ingredients shall be listed in decreasing order based on the consumption in the production process. The ingredients under 2% of consumption amount may not be listed in the decreasing order.

5.1.2.1.3 In the course of brewing or processing, added water and edible alcohol shall be given in the list of ingredients.

5.1.2.1.4 For blended alcoholic beverage (liqueur), the wine base to be used, edible animals and plants (or their products) to be cross-steamed, soaked and added, Chinese herbal medicines allowed by the state, and food additives shall be labeled.

5.1.2.2 In case the national or industrial standard for the alcohol products specifies that the application of food additives are allowed, the additives shall be in conformity to the provisions of GB 2760. The detailed name of the sweetening agent, preservative and colorant shall be labeled. The concrete name or classified name of other food additives shall be labeled according to GB 2760. In case 2 or more colorants are added to one kind of liquor, its classified name (colorant) can be labeled, adding brackets after it, indicating the codes as specified in GB/T 12493.

5.1.2.3 The processing agents to be used in the production and processing of alcoholic beverages does not need to be shown in "raw materials" or "raw and auxiliary materials".

5.1.3 Alcoholic strength

5.1.3.1 Any alcoholic beverage shall indicate the alcoholic strength.

5.1.3.2 On showing the strength, "alcoholic strength" shall be taken as title.

5.1.4 Original extract content, fruit juice content

5.1.4.1 Beers shall show "original malt extract concentration."

Labeling method: to be expressed as "Plato degree" symbol "°P". Before GB/T 17204-1998 is revised, the symbol "°" can be used for expressing the original malt extract concentration, for example, original malt extract concentration: 12°.

5.1.4.2 Fruit wines shall show original fruit juice content (except for grape wine).

Labeling method: to be expressed as "X X%" in the raw and auxiliary materials.

5.1.5 Name and address of manufacturer and distributor

Same as Clause 5.1.5 of the GB 7718 - 2004.

5.1.6 Date labeling and storage instruction

5.1.6.1 The packaging (filling) date and quality guarantee period of prepackaged alcoholic beverages shall be labeled clearly, also adding the storage time. For date labeling, the indication of seeing some place of the package can be adopted. The concrete position of the packing shall be shown.

5.1.6.2 The date shall be indicated in the order from year, month to day. Generally, the year shall label 4 digits. For fractionally packed beverage to be hard to show 4 digits, latter 2 digits can be labeled.

Example 1: packaging (filling) date: to be filled on Jan. 15, 2004, which can be indicated as follows:

"2004 01 15" (year, month, day to be separated with a space character); or

"20040115" (no space character among the year, month and day); or

"2004-01-15" (year, month, day to be separated with a hyphen); or

"Jan. 15, 2004"

Example 2: Quality guarantee duration can be labeled as follows:

"Please drink before July 15, 2004"; or

"Quality guaranteed to 2004-07-15"; or

"6 months or 180 day quality guarantee period."

5.1.6.3 In case the quality guarantee period or storage time of alcoholic beverages is related to the preservation conditions, the specific preservation conditions shall be indicated. This shall be implemented in accordance with the standard for the relevant products.

5.1.7 Net content

5.1.7.1 The indication of net content shall be composed of net content, figures and legal metrological unit.

5.1.7.2 The net content of alcoholic beverages generally is shown with volume, in milliliter or mL (ml), liter or L (l). Large jars of yellow rice wine can be indicated with mass, in kilogram or kg.

5.1.7.3 The metrological unit of net content and requirement for minimum height of characters shall be same as Clauses 5.1.4.3 and 5.1.4.4 of GB 7718 - 2004.

5.1.7.4 The net content together with name of beverage shall be shown on the same layout of the pack or container.

5.1.7.5 In case there are several same fractional packs being mutually independent in the same prepackage, the net content of the pack and its quantity or pieces shall be labeled.

5.1.8 Standard code of product

Same as Clause 5.1.7 of GB 7718 - 2004.

5.1.9 Quality grade

Same as Clause 5.1.8 of GB 7718 - 2004.

5.1.10 Caution words

For glass bottled beer, "Caution words" shall be labeled in accordance with Clause 7.1.1 of GB 4927 - 2001.

5.1.11 Manufacturing license

The brewing enterprises that have implemented the control system of license for the manufacturing of industrial products will be required to indicate the sign and number of manufacturing license for their products.

5.2 Remission of mandatory indication contents

Grape wine and other alcoholic beverages with alcoholic strength more than 10% by volume can be exempt from indicating the quality guarantee duration.

5.3 Recommended contents indication

5.3.1 Lot number

Same as Clause 5.3.1 of GB 7718 - 2004.

5.3.2 Drinking method

5.3.2.1 If necessary, such instructions helping to consumers as opening method of containers like bottle, pot; drinking method, daily drinking amount, and blending method can be given.

5.3.2.2 It is recommended to use the persuading words that excessive drinking is harmful to health; pregnant woman and children are unsuitable to drink, etc..

5.3.3 Energy and nutriments

Same as Clause 5.3.3 of GB 7718 - 2004.

5.3.4 Types of products

5.3.4.1 For fruit wine, grape wine and yellow rice wine, type of product or sugar content can be labeled.

Fruit wine, grape wine and yellow rice wine are suitable to label "dry", "semi-dry", "semi-sweet" or "sweet"; or its sugar content. The labeling method shall be based on the relevant product standard.

5.3.4.2 In case of taking fruit wine, grape wine and yellow rice wine as wine base, the blended alcoholic beverage (liqueur) or sugaring alcoholic drink shall label its sugar content.

5.3.4.3 Distilled spirits that has already determined flavor type can label "flavor type."

*3.1 Individual kinds of traditional white spirits existing before 1989 can maintain the alcoholic strength of the original product.

**3.2 Same as above.

END TRANSLATION

G/TBT/N/CHN/72

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION	G/TBT/N/CHN/72 10 January 2005 (05-0097)
Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade	Original: English

NOTIFICATION

The following notification is being circulated in accordance with Article 10.6.

1. Member to Agreement notifying: <u>THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA</u> If applicable, name of local government involved (Articles 3.2 and 7.2):
2. Agency responsible: Standardization Administration of China (SAC) Name and address (including telephone and fax numbers, e-mail and web-site addresses, if available) of agency or authority designated to handle comments regarding the notification shall be indicated if different from above:
3. Notified under Article 2.9.2 [X], 2.10.1 [], 5.6.2 [], 5.7.1 [], other:
4. Products covered (HS or CCCN where applicable, otherwise national tariff heading. ICS numbers may be provided in addition, where applicable): All pre-packaged alcoholic beverage (ICS.67.160.10)
5. Title, number of pages and language(s) of the notified document: General Standard for the Labelling of Prepacked Alcoholic Beverage .6 pages, in Chinese.
6. Description of content: This standard provides general requirements and contents of mandatory labelling, exemption from mandatory labelling, and voluntary contents of labelling for prepacked alcoholic beverage. General requirements include: 4.1- 4.9: the same as the sub-sections 4.1- 4.9 of GB 7718 4.10: Each minimum package (sale unit) shall label the content which is described in sub-section 5.1. If there is other wrapper (box) which is offered directly to consumer outside the alcoholic beverage containers, it is also permitted that only the wrapper shows the contents of mandatory labelling. The labelling of the outer packaging (or large packaging) shall follow the relevant product standard. 4.11: All declared contents shall not be added, supplemented, or juggled. Contents of mandatory labelling include: Alcoholic beverage name, ingredients list, alcohol content, crude amount of original wort or juice (except wine), name and address of the manufacturer, date of packaging, use-by date, net content, implemented standard code, quality grade, caution, production licence code.

7. Objective and rationale, including the nature of urgent problems where applicable: To protect consumers' benefit, prevent cheating and maintain fair trade.
8. Relevant documents: CAC CODEX STAN 1-1985(1991, 1999) GB 7718-2004 "General standard for the labelling of prepackaged foods"
9. Proposed date of adoption: 90 days after circulation by WTO Secretariat Proposed date of entry into force: 6 months after adoption
10. Final date for comments: 60 days after circulation by WTO Secretariat
11. Texts available from: National enquiry point [X] or address, telephone and fax numbers, e-mail and web-site addresses, if available of the other body: China WTO/TBT National Enquiry Point Tel.: +86 10 82260618 Fax: +86 10 82262448 E-mail: tbt@aqsiq.gov.cn